

WASHINGTON EARNINGS AND MALE-FEMALE DIFFERENCES IN EARNINGS, 1989-1999

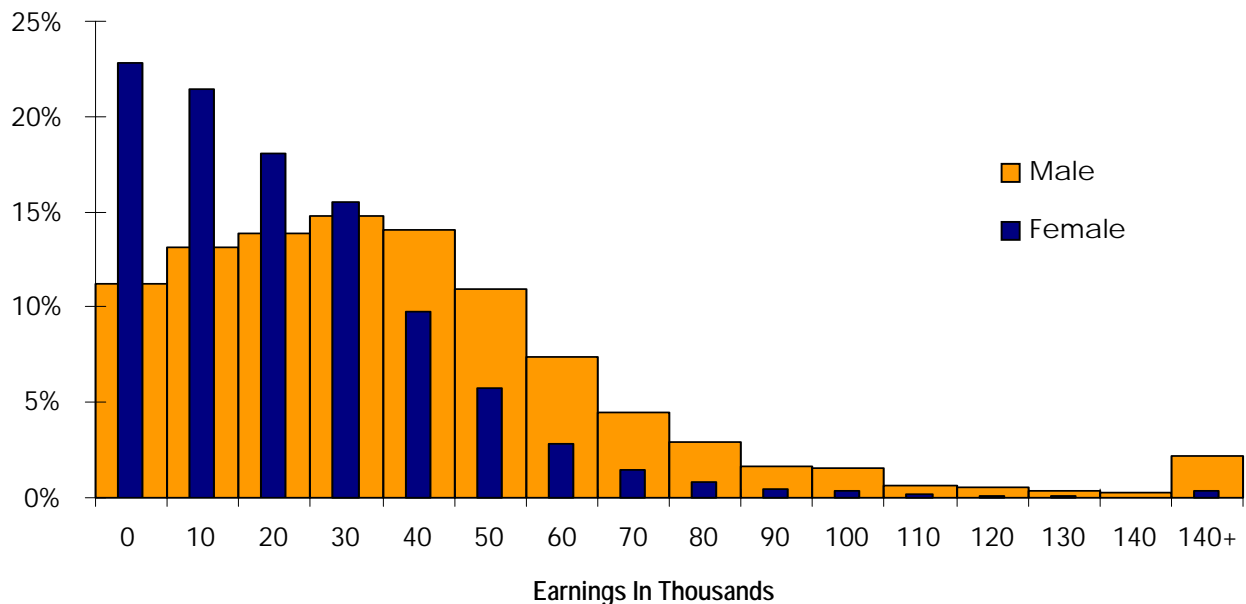
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Differences in Total Earnings for Male and
Female Adults in Washington State*Erica Gardner*

Using data from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), total earnings were examined for Washington State residents aged 18 to 64 by sex. Earnings include wage, salary, commission, bonus, and tip income from all jobs before deductions and/or net income from self-employment. In 1999, women's earnings were much more highly concentrated at the bottom of the earnings distribution than men's earnings (see Figure 1). Twenty-three percent of women had zero earnings compared to 11 percent of men. Women were much less likely to have high earnings compared to men. Fifteen percent of men earned more than \$60,000 compared to four percent of women.

Figure 1 – Distribution of Total Earnings In Washington State By Sex: 1999



Note: Earning data was categorized in \$10,000 increments with the exception of the first and last earning categories (i.e. the \$10,000 earning category includes those earning \$1-\$10,000). The first earning category includes people with zero earnings and a small group of people with negative earnings. The last earning category includes those who earn \$140,001 or more.

The Washington State data used in this analysis come from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). More information on these surveys can be found at the Census website: <http://www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html>.

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Mean and Percentiles

Both men and women had zero earnings at the 10th percentile, but that is where the similarities between the two sexes end (see Figure 2). Men's earnings were consistently higher than women's earnings. Men's mean earnings were \$37,230 compared to women's \$19,251. At the first quartile men were earning \$10,000 more than what women were earning. The dollar gap between male and female earnings grew as the earnings percentile examined increased. At \$13,300, women's median earnings were less than half of men's median earnings. At the 75th percentile, men's earnings were \$20,000 more than women's. Finally, at the 90th percentile, men earned \$27,000 more than what women earned.

Figure 2 – Washington State's Total Earnings By Sex: 1999

